



## Alabama Department of Labor

### News Release

For Immediate Release: August 11, 2014

### Alabama Department of Labor Obtaining Convictions for Unemployment Compensation Fraud

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Fitzgerald Washington announced today that the Department has successfully prosecuted several Alabamians for unemployment compensation fraud. The following individuals were charged with violating the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law by making false statements in claims for benefits:

- Christi K. Hall, of Eastaboga, was tried in Calhoun County District Court on July 15, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hall received a total of \$2,195 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Hall pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years and given two years of unsupervised probation. She was fined \$500 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Rosie Burns, of Selma, was tried in Dallas County District Court on July 1, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Burns received a total of \$3,088 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Burns pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and two years of unsupervised probation. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Alex T. Morris, of Selma, was tried in Dallas County District Court on July 2 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Morris received a total of \$4,885 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Morris pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Sandra O. Robinson, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on July 21, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Robinson received a total of \$4,788 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Robinson pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in year, which was suspended for two years pending restitution and give two years of unsupervised probation. She was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Bertha J. Brown, of Montgomery, was tried in Montgomery County District Court on February 24, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Brown received a total of \$4,446 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Brown pled guilty and was ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Michael T. Ross, of Montevallo, was tried in Shelby County District Court on July 28, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Ross received a total of \$11,940 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Ross pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution and was given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Jermaine Crumpton, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on July 31, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Crumpton received a total of \$1,341 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Crumpton pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for 90 days pending behavior of the defendant, and two years of probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Tanika S. Sims, of Chatom, was tried in Washington County District Court on July 23, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Sims received a total of \$4,419 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Sims pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended, and two years of supervised probation. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

The following individual was charged with Theft of Property, 3rd Degree:

- Vanessa L. Hall, of Gadsden, was tried in Etowah County Circuit Court on July 9, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hall received a total of \$1,194 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Hall pled guilty to Theft of Property, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, and was sentenced to one year in jail which was suspended for two years. She was also required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

“Unemployment compensation benefits can serve as a lifeline to those who truly need them,” said Washington. “However, we want to send a message to those who would knowingly defraud the system to obtain benefits they aren’t entitled to. This is a crime and you will be prosecuted.”

“Our investigators are continuously working with local District Attorney Offices in order to identify and prosecute those individuals who are committing these crimes. I would also like to remind employers that their timely reporting of new hires is one of the best tools we have to detect unemployment fraud.”

Suspected unemployment compensation fraud may be reported to the Alabama Department of Labor by calling 1-800-392-8019.

Employers may find more information regarding reporting new hires at <http://www.labor.alabama.gov/nh>.

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*Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.*